

REMARKS /ARGUMENTS

Claims 38-50 and 54-59 have been examined. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 54 and 55. Claims 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 56, 58 and 59 have been amended. Claims 62-72 have been added. Applicants believe all new claims are fully supported by the originally filed specification, and as such no new matter is added thereby. Claims 44 and 57 have been canceled.

Claims 38-41, 45-50, and 56-59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,506,437 issued to Harish et al. To expedite prosecution of the present case, Applicants have amended all claims to depend from allowable independent claims 54 and 55, without prejudice. As such, remaining claims 38-43, 45-50, 56, 58-59, and 62-72 stand in condition for allowance.

As a final matter, Applicants request that the Examiner send confirmation of the consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed by Applicants on July 27, 2001, October 24, 2003, April 8, 2004, November 23, 2004, and concurrently herewith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/782,804
Amdt. dated February 15, 2005
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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